

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-10 having been amended, and Claims 11-14 having been added. Support for the present amendments is believed to be self-evident from the originally filed specification.<sup>1</sup> Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ramos (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,174); Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ramos in view of Mianzo et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0107017); Claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ramos in view of Takeuchi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0044403, hereinafter Takeuchi); and Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ramos in view of Sadamori (JP 08061405 A).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on May 5, 2009. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 3 as anticipated by Ramos, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 3 overcomes this ground of rejection.

Amended Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*,

a feeder circuit for supplying an amount of electricity required for a semi-operation, in which the movable portion is displaced from the normal position to a semi-operation position located between the normal

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<sup>1</sup> For example, see Applicants' Figs. 6 and 9.

position and the actuation position, to the electromagnetic coil, the amount of electricity required for the semi-operation being less than that required for a full operation for displacing the movable portion from the normal position to the actuation position.

Ramos does not disclose or suggest every element of amended Claim 3.

The moveable portion in Claim 3 is displaced between the normal position and semi-operation position located between the normal position and the actuation position. This is not disclosed by Ramos.

Page 2 of the outstanding Office Action takes the position that armature 4 of Ramos equates to the claimed movable portion. However, armature plate 4 of Ramos reaches the brake housing 2 even if the amount of electricity supplied to the coil 9 is reduced.<sup>2</sup> Ramos describes how the voltage is reduced because holding the armature plate 4 against the brake house 2 requires less electricity than moving armature 4 against the spring.<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, page 4 of the Office Action, when rejecting Claim 1, states ‘‘Ramos fails to disclose the moveable portion displacing between the normal position and the semi-operation position.’’

Thus, Ramos does not disclose or suggest the claimed ‘‘a feeder circuit for supplying an amount of electricity required for a semi-operation, in which the movable portion is displaced from the normal position to a semi-operation position located between the normal position and the actuation position, to the electromagnetic coil, the amount of electricity required for the semi-operation being less than that required for a full operation for displacing the movable portion from the normal position to the actuation position.’’

Mianzo does not cure the above-noted position in Ramos. Mianzo describes an electromagnetic valve actuator 10, with armature 36. Mianzo describes Fig. 1B as a ‘‘middle

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<sup>2</sup> Ramos, col. 3, lines 57-64.

<sup>3</sup> Ramos, col. 5, lines 47-57.

position.”<sup>4</sup> However, the valve head of Mianzo merely passes through the middle position and cannot turn back at the middle position. Thus, Mianzo does not suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the system of Ramos should be modified to displace the moveable portion of an actuator between the normal position and the semi-operation position located between the normal position and the actuation position.

In view of the above-noted distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 3 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Ramos and Mianzo, taken alone or in proper combination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Ramos and Mianzo. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “displacing the movable portion between the normal position and a semi-operation position located between the normal position and the actuation position.” Ramos and Mianzo do not disclose or suggest at least this element of Claim 1 for at least the reasons stated above for Claim 3.

In view of the above-noted distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Ramos and Mianzo, taken alone or in proper combination.

Sadamori has been considered, but does not cure the deficiencies of Ramos and Miazano.

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<sup>4</sup> Mianzo, paragraph [0015].

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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